

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated June 2, 2004, the Examiner withdrew the finality of the previous office action (dated November 6, 2003); rejected claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kuramoto (JP1005759) in view of Wang et al. (US 5,447,466); and rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Kuramoto* and *Wang*, and further in view of Bajorek (US 6,363,559). Claims 8 and 9 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 10-20 were allowed.

Applicants have made a minor grammatical correction to claim 10. This correction does not alter the scope of the claim.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate all subject matter previously recited in dependent claim 8. As amended, claim 1 has the same scope as previous claim 8. Since claim 8 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter, and was objected to solely as being dependent on a rejected base claim, amended claim 1 is now allowable.

Claim 8 has been cancelled as superfluous. Claim 9 has been amended to depend directly from amended claim 1.

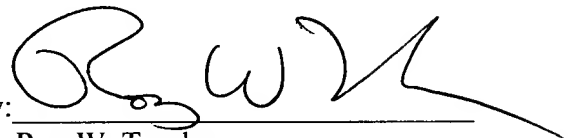
In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all claims. In addition,

the Examiner is encouraged to contact applicants' attorney by telephone if there are outstanding issues left to be resolved to place this case in condition for allowance

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. HAGAN, et al.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy W. Truelson', written over a horizontal line.

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